



Seaham
Urban District Council

ANNUAL
REPORT

FOR 1945

OF THE

HEALTH DEPARTMENT





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Seaham Urban District Council.

Chairman, Councillor W. P. SMITH, J.P.

Chairman of Health Committee, Councillor Mrs. TODD,
M.B.E., J.P.

Members of the Council:

Councillor ARMSTRONG	Councillor McLAUCHLAN
„ *BARRATT	„ *OLIVER
„ *BLACKWELL, J.H.	„ *PIGG
„ BLACKWELL, O.	„ *ROBINSON
„ CONN	„ *SAMPLE
„ CROMPTON	„ *SCOTT, T. C.
„ *CROW	„ SCOTT, J. A.
„ GALLAGHER	„ *SMITH
„ *GASCOIGNE	„ *TODD
„ *GUY	„ WEBSTER
„ HARRISON	„ WEETMAN
„ *KEELEY	„ WILLIAMS
„ LAWSON	„ WILSON
„ LEE	„ *WRIGHT
„ *LOWERY	„ MYERS
„ McCUTCHEON	

* Members of Health Committee.

Officials of Health Department:

Medical Officer of Health:

WM. JAMES PEDEN, L.R.C.P.I. & L.M., L.R.C.S.I. & L.M.,
D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector—BATESON TURNER, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
C.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector—Vacant.

Engineer and Surveyor—J. WORTHINGTON, M. INST. M. & CY. E.,
A.M.T.P.I.

Clerks in Health Department—Mrs. C. T. WILLIS (to
30th March, 1945) and Miss J. DOWDING.

*To the Chairman and Members
of the
Seaham Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1945.

The health of the area remains unchanged, indeed in some ways has improved, in spite of the stress and ordeals we have gone through in the past six years.

Many of the fears we had concerning infectious disease and other conditions did not materialize. We have no major epidemic to draw your attention to; on the other hand we have shown a diminution in the number of cases of Diphtheria, which from the health point of view is the infectious disease which causes at the moment most concern. The immunisation scheme pursued by the Council for many years seems to be keeping the disease in check.

Housing and health go hand in hand, and the people have responded with remarkable courage to the situation, which for many reasons is very difficult.

The death rate was the lowest and the birth rate the highest for some years, and the various columns will help you to follow more clearly the health of the district during the time covered by the report.

I wish to thank the Council, and my colleagues on the staff, for their loyal co-operation during the year.

WM. JAMES PEDEN,
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

(Figures in brackets refer to previous year).

Area : 2,467 statute acres.

Number of inhabited houses (June, 1945), 5,978 (5,981)

Estimated number of separate tenancies (June, 1945), 6,835 (6,839)

Rateable value, £101,634 (£102,108).

The sum represented by a Penny rate, £379 (£375)

VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth Rate—LIVE BIRTHS:—

21.5 per 1000 estimated population (20.8)

STILL BIRTHS:—

Rate per 1,000 total births, 37.3 (31.6).

Infantile Mortality.

Death rate of all infants under one year per 1000 live births, 56.3 (73.6)

Death rate of legitimate infants under one year per 1000 live births, 52.4 (71.5)

Death rate of illegitimate infants under one year per 1000 live births, 66.6 (47.6).

Deaths.

Total rate per 1000 population, 10.0 (11.2).

Maternal mortality rate per 1000 live and still births, 1.8. (1.9)

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths from Cancer ...	13 (21)	14 (20)	27 (41)
Deaths from Measles ...	1 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)
Deaths from Whooping Cough...	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ...	6 (5)	3 (2)	9 (7)
Deaths from Diphtheria ...	1 (1)	0 (2)	1 (3)
Deaths from T.B. (Pul.) ...	8 (6)	8 (7)	16 (13)
Deaths from T.B. (Non-Pul.) ...	1 (1)	5 (2)	6 (3)
Deaths from Diseases of the Heart ...	39 (27)	38 (26)	77 (53)
Deaths from Circulation (including Intracranial) ...	15 (14)	13 (28)	28 (42)
Deaths from Pneumonia, Bronchitis, etc. ...	13 (17)	6 (8)	19 (25)

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics for 1945 and certain
previous years.

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1900	42.0	21.1	174
1910	36.4	14.8	122
1920	35.2	16.3	124
1930	23.0	10.5	80
1937	17.2	10.3	82.9
1938	16.9	10.6	66.6
1939	16.3	10.6	78
1940	18.2	12.6	56.9
1941	17.6	12.2	60.4
1942	18.1	11.3	49.8
1943	19.86	13.5	59.3
1944	20.8	11.2	73.6
1945	21.5	10.0	56.3

TABLE II.
Vital Statistics for 1944 and 1945.

	England and Wales		Smaller towns (Population 25,000-50,000)		County Rate		Seaham	
	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945	1944	1945
Birth Rate ...	17.6	16.1	20.9	19.2	20.9	18.9	20.8	21.5
Death Rate ...	11.6	11.4	12.4	12.3	12.0	11.9	11.2	10.0
I. M. Rate ...	46	46	44	43	61	53	73.6	56.3

SUMMARY OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND TUBERCULOSIS.

The tables will show you the trend of events during the year.

TABLE III.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

CASES NOTIFIED AT THE FOLLOWING AGES:—

Disease	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 and over	Admitted to Hospital	Died	Total
Scarlet Fever ..	1	2	4	1	—	25	12	2	2	—	—	—	35	—	49
Diphtheria ..	—	—	1	2	6	19	5	2	3	—	—	—	35	1	38
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	6	—	2	—	8
Cerebro Spinal..	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	4
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	8	24	18	29	25	73	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	180
Whooping Cough	2	3	1	1	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
Pneumonia ..	4	4	3	—	—	7	1	5	3	4	4	2	—	—	37

TABLE IV.
Monthly Notifications of Infectious Diseases during 1945.

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever ..	3	2	2	5	6	3	3	3	4	9	3	6	49
Diphtheria ..	2	4	4	5	2	3	3	5	1	3	4	2	38
Puerperal Sepsis ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	3	8
Cerebro Spinal ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	4
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	2	—	—	44	28	11	10	—	—	17	12	56	180
Whooping Cough ..	1	3	3	2	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	13
Pneumonia ..	5	3	—	2	6	5	1	—	2	2	4	7	37

TABLE V.
Infectious Disease and Tuberculosis Cases
notified during past five years.

(Figures in parenthesis indicate number of Deaths).

Disease	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Scarlet Fever ...	31 (0)	71	53 (0)	39 (0)	49 (0)
Diphtheria ...	96 (9)	267 (7)	101 (6)	40 (3)	38 (1)
Puerperal Sepsis ...	3	3	1 (1)	—	2 (0)
Erysipelas ...	5	8	15 (0)	4 (0)	8 (0)
Cerebro Spinal Fever	4	3 (1)	9 (4)	1 (1)	4 (2)
Polio-myelitis ...	1	—	—	—	0 (0)
Measles ...	225 (1)	38	786 (1)	43 (0)	180 (0)
Whooping Cough ...	136 (3)	56	34 (1)	40 (0)	13 (0)
Pneumonia ...	62 (12)	107	75 (13)	53 (0)	37 (0)
T.B.—Pulmonary ...	28 (14)	31 (21)	36 (16)	31 (7)	28 (14)
T.B.—Non-Pulmonary	14 (1)	22 (4)	21 (4)	27 (0)	19 (5)

TABLE VI.
TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NOTIFICATIONS				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 ..	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
5-10 ..	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	2
10-15 ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
15-20 ..	2	3	2	4	2	1	—	2
20-25 ..	6	4	2	4	1	2	—	1
25-35 ..	1	4	—	1	—	3	—	—
35-45 ..	2	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
45-55 .	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
55-65 ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	14	12	6	15	7	7	0	5

The brief summary which follows will make the tabulated figures on the previous pages somewhat clearer to you.

- (1) **Cerebro Spinal Fever.**—There have been four cases of this condition, and the overcrowding resulting from our war effort does not seem to have had any material effect.
- (2) **Diphtheria.**—The figures for 1944 were 40 notifications with 3 deaths, and for 1945 were 38 notifications with 1 death. This is extremely satisfactory, and if the present trend continues, and as the people become more and more aware of the value of immunisation, we shall be able to defeat this dreaded disease
- (3) **Measles.**—The increase shown here naturally follows the small number of the previous year.
- (4) **Scabies.**—This skin trouble has been practically eliminated from our midst.
- (5) **Scarlet Fever.**—There has been little change from last year.
- (6) **Typhoid.**—There have been no cases to report.
- (7) **Tuberculosis.**—There have been fewer notifications and a greater number of deaths. With the return of ex-service personal and the lack of sanatoria a careful watch must be kept, in order to keep the incidence down. I might add that the Council fully appreciate this, and the housing priority given to people suffering from this disease has gone a long way in helping our efforts.
- (8) **Whooping Cough.**—Fewer cases were notified.

GENERAL SANITATION.

- (1) **Abatement of Nuisances**—All complaints received by the Sanitary Inspector have been attended to, and the following nuisances have been dealt with :—

Dwelling-houses	{	Foul conditions..	..	11
and	{	Structural defects	..	3
Schools	{	Overcrowding ..	..	0
Cowsheds	..	..	..	1
Bakehouses	..	..	..	2
Ashpits and Privies	..	..	..	10
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	..	..	..	2
Water Closets	..	..	..	89
House Drainage (Other faults)	..	..	..	16
Water Supply	..	..	..	1
Pigsties	..	..	..	1
Smoke Nuisances	..	..	..	6
Other Nuisances	..	..	..	129

- (2) **Disinfection and Disinfestation.**—The disinfectant used is of the Thresh type and clothing and bedding are disinfected at Cornelia Terrace. In cases of infectious diseases occurring in the house, Formaldehyde and Cromessol are used.

Total number of houses and bedding disinfected, 112.

- (3) **Disinfestation and Eradication of Bed Bugs**—

This is done by (i) Powder (Kolium Co.) ; (ii) Insecticides (Kolium Co.) ; Cromessol soln A and B ; and (iii) Fumigation (Fumex, Kolium and Killgerm Sulphur blocks) ; and (iv) Formaldehyde and D.D.T.

Council houses disinfested	...	Nil
Other houses disinfested	...	14

- (4) **Drainage and Sewerage**—No complaints have been received regarding the combined system which is in operation for the disposal of sewerage, which is discharged into the sea at the east side of the town. There are only a small number of isolated dwellings that are not on the water carriage system. It is hoped, in the near future, that with sewer extensions it may be possible to add them to the system.

- (5) **Factories and Workshops.**—The Factories and Workshops have been inspected and found in order.
- (6) **Housing.**—The obtaining of building materials for the repairing of properties is still a very difficult problem. It is hoped that in a very short time the situation regarding both material and labour will be on a more satisfactory basis.
- (7) **Meat and other Foods**—A total of 395 visits were made where food is stored.

The following is a list of foods condemned:—

Beef 150 lbs., Brisket Beef 20 lbs., Liver 12 lbs., Mutton 24 lbs., Sausage 40 lbs., Sausage Meat 12 lbs., Pork Luncheon Meat 89½ lbs., Chopped Ham, 3 lbs., Spam 2 lbs., Casserole Steak 20 tins, Bacon 47½ lbs., Butter 56 lbs., Margarine 4 ozs., Sugar 77 lbs., Cheese 106 lbs., Eggs 1558, Milk 58 tins, Household Milk 16 tins, Jam 11 lbs. Syrup 2 lbs., Beans 61 tins, Beans and Pork 15 tins, Peas 26 tins, Soups 29 tins, Fish Cakes 519, Salmon 132 tins, Pilchards 36 tins, Crayfish 3 tins, Mackerel 3 tins, Sardines 9 tins, Herring 2 tins, Shrimps 1 tin, Sweets 16½ lbs., Chocolate 3½ lbs., Flour 23 lbs, Soya Flour 59 lbs., Crushed Barley 103 lbs., Rolled Oats 14½ lbs., Dessert Mould 29 packets, Salt 18 packets, Potatoes 2 stones, Oranges 694, Minerals 16 bottles, Sauces 4 bottles, Beetox 1 jar, Meat Paste 11 jars, Meat Cubes 5, Fish Paste 1 jar, Chocolate Semolina 29 packets, Curry Powder ½ lb., Dates 5 lbs., Table Dessert 5 packets, Flavoured Semolina 91 packets, Pudding Mixture 78 packets.

- (8) **Milk.**—All Farms and dairies have been inspected and found satisfactory, with the exception of one cowshed, which the nuisance has now been remedied.
- (9) **Port Sanitary Authority.**—All complaints reported have been investigated.

- (10) **Refuse and Salvage.**—The total amount of refuse collected for the year ending 31st March, 1946, was 19,604 tons 15 cwts. Controlled tipping is in operation, and the tip is situated in the south-eastern part of the area.

The collection of salvage is carried out by the Surveyor's Department, the approximate total figures being:

Paper	...	75 tons	15 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwts.
Scrap Metal	...	36	„ 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ „
Non-ferrous Metals...		2	„ 18 $\frac{3}{8}$ „
Textiles	...	11	„ 19 $\frac{1}{4}$ „
Rubber	...	2	„ 9 „
Bones	...	5	„ 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ „
Kitchen Waste	...	179	„ 19 „
Bottles	...	43	„ 10 „

- (11) **Water Supply.**—The water has been tested in the usual routine and shows no cause for complaint.

